

**GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM**

February 10, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

This past week, I traveled to Washington, DC to press the federal government to help workers in Michigan compete in this global economy.

As you know, we're working everyday in Michigan to strengthen our economy, to create new jobs for our citizens, to assist our manufacturers, and to secure the future for every single family.

And as we work to transition our economy to implement our economic plan to diversify Michigan, we need a partner in Washington that is willing to step up and work with us. We need those in power in Washington to be part of the solution, not part of problem.

But unfortunately, the president's budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year is a huge problem.

It cuts funding in half for an important resource that helps our manufacturers compete globally – the Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

It would completely eliminate the Advanced Technology Program. That means significantly reduced federal funding for our automakers and other innovators to develop new technology.

And the president is asking Congress to cut \$36 billion from Medicare – and therefore from the health care our seniors depend on and deserve.

I'm committed to fighting the cuts that would hurt our citizens. And we're going to continue working our plan to secure Michigan's future at the same time.

In fact, we've made exciting progress on that plan recently.

We announced that our MI Opportunity Partnership has officially trained and placed 20,000 out-of-work citizens in great new jobs.

Hearings have begun on my proposal to create a new 401(k) plan in Michigan, to give every worker in Michigan this important tool to save for retirement.

The legislature has already begun hearings on the Michigan First Health Plan, which would extend access to affordable, private health care coverage to more than half a million uninsured citizens in Michigan.

So from health care to retirement savings to an economy that's strong and growing, we are going to press them and fight, but we're not going to wait for those in power in Washington to act. Michigan was built on the hard work of everyday people, and I'm working through a comprehensive economic plan to protect the opportunity that hard work has won every day.

Thank you for listening.